**UNIT III Writing Project: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and Puritanism**

**Persuasive Essay**

The Puritans followed a strong individual set of religious and personal loyalties when building and governing their societies in the New World. In an attempt to protect what they believed in and to stay true to their own loyalties, they ended up discriminating against and alienating people in the same way they were discriminated against and alienated in England.

The Puritans’ strong belief systems and commitment to upholding and protecting their own culture can be thought of in two ways:

* An **admirable** commitment and showcase of the power of staying true to your own beliefs and individual ideas;

**OR**

* A **shameful or contemptible** showcase of the troubles that follow when a group of people do not welcome difference.

What do you think? Were the Puritans’ loyalties **good** because they came from years of discrimination—making them a strong and loyal group of people---or were their loyalties **bad**—because they were discriminatory?

In a persuasive essay (of **at least** 4 paragraphs), respond to the following question:

Were the Puritans’ strong commitment to their beliefs and loyalties something to be admired or something to be criticized? You must use evidence and direct quotations from *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and at least 2 nonfiction sources we read before break.

**Important Dates:**

* Tuesday, January 20: **Thesis Written**
* Thursday, January 22: **List of Evidence (quotes and topic sentences)**
* Wednesday, February 4: **First Draft** (with your edits due)
* Friday, February 13: **Final Paper Due**